

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH.



A Bold, Bad Man

HE is a bold man, that President Taylor, of the Newark board of education, who ventured to criticize the attire of women teachers in the schools, and in the remedy for the alleged evils of which he complained even blunder.

His plan was to put the teachers into uniforms! It is proper to say "his plan was," because it is to be assumed that by now this particular educational authority has found his way, hotly pursued by the jeers, denunciations and recriminations of the objects of his attack, and carrying his plan with him, to the tall timbers. There he may be safe, but nowhere else.

Put the teachers into uniform, indeed! Showing Faith by Our Works
IT cannot be said that the crusade for clean streets has been productive, in the two days of its history, of all that could have been expected or might have been desired. There is more to do—much more—but, with a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together, Richmond can accomplish great things.

So long as the public manifests its indifference, there is little use of criticizing the Street Cleaning Department, ineffective as that department unquestionably is. Superintendent Cohn puts the responsibility on lack of men and equipment, and some of our correspondents ascribe it to lack of proper training and method, but the mournfulness of the result is visible to any eye.

If the people will show they want clean streets, the city government will supply them. But we must show our interest, as well as our faith, by our works.

Looking Up

FOR the last week excess of exports over imports showed a balance of trade favorable to the United States of \$16,413,295. For November, it is estimated, the balance of trade in our favor will amount to approximately \$70,000,000.

In New England the General Electric Company, at Lynn, Mass., will start its force of 15,000 men at work on full time next Monday.

The machinery and machine tool trade, according to the Iron Trade Review, continues to receive attractive equipment orders for export delivery.

Railroad gross and net earnings show a gratifying increase. Cotton planters are beginning to gin their crops.

"One by one," says the December bulletin of the American National Bank, "the trade barriers are being removed, and things are righting themselves rapidly."

The country climbs toward the light! Why Not Villa?

IT is quite possible that there is a Mexican who is better fitted to lead that unfortunate country out of chaos into order than is General Villa, but day by day it appears to grow clearer that man will not come to the surface until armed strife has ceased for some time. Villa has shown the only real capacity as a leader of men that has come to light in Mexico since the fall of Diaz. His armies do not disintegrate, as do those of the other leaders; they are the only forces that appear to be efficiently equipped and led.

It is something more than possible that the Mexican soldiers are the pick of the Mexican people. They are doubtless as uncouth and as untaught as is Villa himself. But the large majority of the Mexican people are also in that condition, while the men that follow Villa at least have proven that they have some fixity of purpose, a quality that is not too common among Mexican peons.

They have followed him for a long time now, they have won continuous successes under him. Is it preposterous to believe that if the mass of the Mexican people could cast their ballots freely for President the majority would cast them for "Pancho" Villa?

Nor is it at all certain that their choice would be a bad one. Villa may not have the

culture, grace or distinction of a Spanish grandee, but he has already shown the qualities of leadership. He may be rough, but the man has brains and shrewdness. It would not be such a very easy matter to pull the wool over his eyes, to make him a puppet in the hands of the old land-owning oligarchy, if he sincerely desired the good of the people. So far as results go, the Mexican people appear to believe that he is their true champion, and they are in the best position to know.

It speaks well for General Villa's patriotism that he does not appear to have availed himself of any of the numerous opportunities he must have had to enrich himself.

Foreign Loans' Wisdom Shown

NO small part of the returning prosperity that has begun to become apparent throughout the country, despite the continuance of excessive unemployment and other unfavorable symptoms, is due to the short-term loans which have been made by American bankers to foreign governments. Applications for other advances of this character are pending, and it is expected they will be granted.

When, two months ago, the propriety and probable effect of such loans were being considered, The Times-Dispatch took the liberty of disagreeing both with the State Department and with various of its contemporaries. The department had declared that these loans were not in the spirit of the President's neutrality proclamation, and influential newspapers were apprehensive that they would result in large increases of gold exports, at a time when this country was in urgent need of its own cash resources.

Both of these views were strained, and the latter, at least, has been proved by the logic of events to have been entirely incorrect. At the time of the discussion Americans were selling arms and ammunition, foodstuffs, clothing and horses to belligerent nations, so that it was difficult to perceive why cash to purchase these things could not also be supplied. The commodities in which the bankers dealt are money and credit, they are not more contraband, certainly, than machine guns and shrapnel, and The Times-Dispatch, at any rate, could not understand why one class of business men should be deprived of an opportunity for profit that remained open to another.

It was pointed out further that loans to belligerents could not reasonably be expected to result in increased gold exports, because what the nations at war wanted was not gold especially, but those materials and supplies necessary to the prosecution of their campaigns.

The State Department did not press its point, and the loans have followed. No gold has been exported on this account in any substantial amounts. The loans American bankers have made have been in the form of credits, which have been used for purchases within this country. Virginia has profited among other States through this financial policy. For horses, flour and saddlery it is probable that \$500,000 has been spent within the Commonwealth. Much more will be spent. In many parts of the country there have been similar expenditures, which have put cash into circulation and revived commerce and industry.

This country's recent depression has not been due to a lack of cash in the banks, but to a paucity of commercial and industrial operations in which that cash profitably could be employed. The United States was not using its own financial resources, because they could not be used with profit. Foreign loans have supplied the means by which some of the banks' surplus currency could find its way into the pockets of the people.

Study of Spanish in the Schools

PROMINENT educators throughout the country are making a concerted effort to obtain for Spanish the same educational position, in college matriculation examinations, etc., as German and French now enjoy, and it is singular that success in this endeavor should require a good deal of work. As an educational asset for young American men and women destined for commercial pursuits, there does not seem to be any room for argument that Spanish is more valuable than any other modern language, except, of course, English. It is evident that we are on the eve of a great expansion of trade with the Spanish-speaking countries of South America. Many Americans now at school will find employment easier and better rewarded if they have command of Spanish than if they are able to speak and write any other European tongue.

Aside from its utilitarian aspect, the possession of Spanish makes available an extremely rich and beautiful literature. When properly spoken, Spanish is probably more mellifluous than any other existing language, and many English-speaking persons who have acquired the Spaniards' tongue have found that their use of English became less stilted and more distinguished.

The rather pitiful smattering of French or German that is obtained in our schools certainly has no higher mental disciplinary value than would even a like study of Spanish. But what is required, and what would doubtless come into existence if the demand were great enough, is a thorough grounding in the Iberian tongue, so that the average student could acquire proficiency through practice. That both French and German are so badly learned in the United States is doubtless due to the fact that even if well taught and learned the acquisition of neither language would be put to profitable use in commercial life.

As we have said, the case is quite different with Spanish. We are neighbors of Spanish-speaking peoples. In the not distant future these people will probably be our largest customers. We should know how to speak with them in their mother tongue.

It will be cheering news to the German fleet that, according to Herr Ballin, of the Hamburg-American line, England already has been defeated. Now the German ships can put to sea.

Considering on what intimate terms the Kaiser stands with the Diet, it is not surprising that his Turkish ally has declared a holy war.

Current events are teaching all of us that a man is not necessarily a world-beater because he thinks he is.

Say what they may about Villa, he never pretended to be a candidate for the Nobel peace prize.

The old game of "I spy" is attracting much attention in England.

Who is President of Mexico just now, anyhow?

SONGS AND SAWS

Ready for a Meal.
Days and nights are growing colder,
In mad haste the mercury drops;
And the coal man, waxing bolder,
Eyes our cash and licks his chops.

No Change Expected.
He—What is your view of the Balkan situation?
She—Oh, I feel sure that those perfectly dear blouses will be just as popular next summer as they were last.

Explained.
"Say, pop."
"Proceed."
"What makes Mr. Hardbiller's nose so red?"
"That, my son, is a physiological reaction, which in turn is the product of Mr. Hardbiller's habit of tilting back his head. The blood rushes up to reach the highest level of his anatomy and so settles in the nasal promontory."

Violating the Rules.
Little drops of water,
Falling on the square;
Street cleaners would be angry
If they knew the drops were there.

The Penitential Says:
There is no reward for virtue in this world. No sooner do I conquer an ingrained habit and buy an umbrella than some one else picks up habit and umbrella at the same time.

One Blessing.
Editor—What's become of all those claps who were always writing in to tell us how to run a newspaper?
Assistant—They have all turned their attention to the war, and are too busy directing the movements of armies to give much thought to journalism.

Envy.
If Alexander could return
And few the battles fought these days,
And weep again with every burn,
And know that his were minor frays.

THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch notes the approach of the holiday season and observes: "The yuletide is rising." Which explains the unwelcome deference of the cook, the chambermaid, the barber's boy, the elevator runner, the janitor and the rest of them that grow excessively polite just before Christmas. Even the holly hounds.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance protests against any attempt to put the part of Uncle Sam to essay the role of Citizen First in the European war drama, saying: "A large number of busybodies in the press and among the people are constantly urging the United States and Holland, two very important neutral countries, to request the war parties across the seas for an armistice. We trust and believe that so far as the United States is concerned this matter will be left severely alone. Neither side in the terrible and titanic struggle now waging is in any condition to position for an armistice." The Free Lance is convinced that interference in company with Holland must inevitably put both neutrals "in Dutch" with all the belligerents.

The Clifton Forge Review goes on record as unalterably opposed to any law requiring a sheriff or jailor responsible for the safekeeping of a convicted prisoner to serve out the prisoner's term in any county other than that in which he was convicted. Editor Greene puts it this way: "We are not having spent a day in Staunton recently, and also mingled with the football crowd in Richmond on Thanksgiving Day, but we are not so far gone as to endorse the suggestion of a law whereby sheriffs and their deputies must take the places of escaped prisoners in their care."

Life in Mexico is a continuous panorama of war in the opinion of the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch editor, who says: "Mexico City has a real need for any moving picture show. And he might have added that the people live in perpetual dread that each succeeding liberator and savior of the republic will be followed by the next."

The Lynchburg Advance questions the title of the University of Virginia football team to the South Atlantic championship, saying: "If Virginia refuses to play with the Virginia college which are contenders for the South Atlantic championship, Virginia should relinquish its claim to the championship." The Lynchburg High School evidently feels that it has a kick coming.

The Portsmouth Star comments: "As a Thanksgiving Day souvenir, Cole Bease, retiring Governor of South Carolina, tucked away under the girls or pinned to the lapels of eight or ten and sentenced criminals now in the State Penitentiary of that State of whom sixteen were life-term murderers, the felicitations of his distinguished abuse of clemency, turning them loose, pardoned or paroled, upon the Commonwealth." The editor, however, loses sight of the probability that this is a strategic movement looking to a reorganization of the Bease constituency.

Current Editorial Comment

Nothing Really New Under the Sun.—That if there is anything new under the sun it is not the cut of garments for women is again proved. Professor Flinders Petrie, a well-known Egyptologist, has sent from a hole in a kiln in Egypt three maidens of Abydos whose arrival at the University of Pennsylvania had in just the last of skirts they are being displayed in the smartest Philadelphia shop windows as the latest thing, calls attention to the fact that fashion, like history, repeats itself. The three young women are beautiful ivory-skinned beauties, whose bodies have been determined definitely enough to rank them among the oldest relics of antiquity. Their hair is neatly marcelled. Scant skirts cling about the ankles, tunics sweep from the hips. Although they have reposed in a tomb some thousands of years, they look as if they had been copied from nature in an American city in 1914, barring the fact that the marble vase with the ankle-tight skirt is a trifle anachronistic. Byron's "Bride of Abydos" relates to a city upon the Nile, at the point at which Nereus built his bridge of boats, and where Leander's love for Hero stood the test of a long swim. The Abydos from which the three girls in the 1914 skirts were taken is the city which boasts the Palace of Amenhotep and the tomb of Osiris. It was, doubtless, a centre of Egyptian fashion when the world was younger.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Foreign Policy of England.—If Sir Edward Grey does not go down into history along with Machiavelli, Richelieu and Bismarck, it will not be the fault of his German critics. Herman Ridder has "just received an intimate and very illuminating communication," the source of which he unfortunately does not reveal, which shows that new plots are already afoot: "It must come as a shock," to learn that England is already conspiring against the small countries which she professes to protect. As I understand these negotiations," says Mr. Ridder in the New York Staats Zeitung, "they contemplate giving Russia a free hand in Sweden and Norway, while Great Britain is to dominate under way between the Russian and British foreign offices." The idea of England, of course, is to keep Russia from annexing Hamburg and other North Sea ports by offering the Scandi-navian Peninsula instead, though why Russia should be a more welcome neighbor than this is not very clear. Is it on such evidence as this that Germans have been persuaded that hostile

powers were conspiring to destroy Germany? Viewing the matter "objectively," as the German historians say, how would Editor Ridder rate the evidence that England has designs on Denmark as compared with the evidence that Germany has designs on Belgium?—Springfield Republican.

Panama Canal Begins to Tell.
Within two months and a half of operation, the Panama Canal has made it showing which force casts its tremendous effect upon commerce. With the world at war, or most of it, shipping should naturally fall below the expected normal, although large grain cargoes to Europe have operated toward restoring the balance. In this case, seventeen eastbound vessels up to November 1 had carried 5,179,934 bushels of grain through the waterway. According to the Canal Records, the distance saved by vessels from the United States in passing through the canal, instead of the Magellan route, is estimated at 5,600 miles. If the average speed of vessels is taken at ten knots, the saving in time at sea averages twenty-three days. On a basis of a per diem cost of operation at sea of 10 cents per net registered ton, the average saving in cost of operation per vessel was \$300 per day, or \$7,125. The average tolls on 4,850 tons at \$1.20 per ton were \$4,860. The average net saving per vessel, by use of the canal, was accordingly \$2,265. Clearly, an average saving of this size upon each cargo which has passed through the great waterway is such a stimulus to shipping. While all these computations were approximately estimated before the first dredge had dropped its scoop, it is none the less gratifying to find the forecasts substantiated.—New York Evening Sun.

War News Fifty Years Ago

From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 3, 1864.
The heavy cannonading distinctly heard in the city yesterday was supposed to be the beginning of the long-expected general engagement all along the lines from Richmond to Petersburg and perhaps beyond. However, it turned out that this firing proceeded from Pickett's batteries which were shelling the new Federal camps on Signal Hill and on the north side of the James River, and that was all.

A force of the enemy, estimated at 500 men attacked the Confederate guard at Stony Creek in Sussex County last Wednesday and quickly overpowered them, capturing a portion of the guard and dispersing the remainder. The enemy then burned the railroad bridge and a small quantity of government stores that were in the depot building, after which they hurried back to Grant's line from which they had come.

Yesterday morning in front of Petersburg the gallant General Gracie, of Alabama, was instantly killed by a shell, while he was inspecting his lines. The same shell killed a captain and a private.

Official information comes that General Rosser, of the cavalry department, on last Monday captured and burned New Creek Station, on the Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad. The station was supposed to be guarding the station made but feeble resistance, and the most of them were captured.

General Hardee telegraphs to the War Department from Savannah as follows: "I have just returned from the front, where the fight of the 22nd place. The enemy was whipped and has retired to Coosahatchie. Another point on the railroad is threatened, but I do not apprehend a serious attack."

Piedmont, a station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, has been captured by the Confederate cavalry under the command of General Rosser. The enemy had great stores for the Federal army assembled there and it is said that all of these with ample mules and wagons to move them fell into the hands of Rosser's men.

All of the talk on the streets of Richmond about General Roger A. Pryor purposely putting himself in a position to be captured by the enemy has subsided, as being perfectly ridiculous. Pryor's release has been ordered by a reading man, and as such would risk almost anything to get something to read. In ignorance of recent orders forbidding the swapping of papers, he went out on the picket line to exchange with the Yankees, a custom that is as old as the war; and he was captured, and is now being held because our men took Captain Burbridge under similar conditions. General Lee has ordered the release of Burbridge, and General Pryor's release has been ordered by General Grant, and that is all there is to the whole matter.

Newbern, N. C., has been visited by a disastrous fire, a large portion of the principal business block being destroyed.

The Voice of the People

Approach to Mayor's Bridge.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—By the way, the approach to Mayor's Bridge a great deal has been written and said, and now the matter is coming to a head. The Street Committee is composed of the pick of both branches of the City Council, who have taken the hold of the problem with vim and earnestness, and at no distant day one happens to be at the corner of Fourteenth and Main Streets will not have to ask, "Where is the new bridge?" The vista will be open and this reveal that, although there are three convincing the most skeptical that there is and can be but one approach to said bridge, and that by way of Fourteenth Street. I congratulate the committee upon its wisdom, and regard this as being one of the most important pieces of work mapped out during the year 1914. C. E. C.
Richmond, December 1, 1914.

Credit to The Times-Dispatch.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—It is a trivial matter, but the records might as well be kept straight, especially as such action as the value of "T. D." I advertised the watch I found on the R. L. Bryant, of the city police force, saw the advertisement and presented an exact description of the watch to him by the owner. I then turned it over to him.
The credit for its "recovery" belongs to you rather than to Mr. Bryant. J. W. EVERETT.
Richmond, December 1, 1914.

Queries and Answers

Average Life.
What is the general average duration of human life now all over the earth?
The limit of life for the average person over the earth is less than fifteen years. The average duration is considered to be about thirty-three years.

Military Training, Etc.
What number of men in the United States have had some sort of military training? Why is the name "dago" given to some of our foreign-born people?
No accurate estimate may be made. Counting veterans and the numbers in the present army and navy and the present and former students of the military schools and the State militia, it might be possible to arrive at a total of about 1,500,000. From the proper name, Diego, a South Europe form (Portuguese), for James.

Civil Service Examination.
How may I find the requirements, etc., in the government examination for position as typist?
Write the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

Penitentiary.
To settle a dispute, please state how many prisoners were in the Virginia Penitentiary at the close of the war.
The records are gone, and there is no means of making a reliable estimate.

Joseph Bryan.
Please tell me the date of the death of Joseph Bryan in Richmond.
This public calamity occurred November 20, 1908.

Marshall Ward.
How long has Marshall Ward been in existence in Richmond?
It was formed from Monroe Ward, May 4, 1852.

A BELGIAN SANTA CLAUS

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the New York Evening Sun.

THE "PREPAREDNESS" FLURRY

(Editorial in the New York Evening Post.)

That President Wilson intends to keep his head in the present flurry over our "preparedness" for war is gratifyingly apparent in the news from Washington to-day. It has been quite evident that the present conflagration in Europe is to be made the excuse for a wild raid on Congress for more soldiers, more sailors and more ships. Witnessing the total breakdown of the militarist pretension abroad, that large armaments insure peace, we hear from our Navy League, our alarmed Gladstones, our gun and armor makers, our Roosevelt and our jingo generals, that we, too, must imitate the folly of Europe, even though it is now trenching its soil with blood. At the very moment when the "most senseless of wars" is endangering civilization itself, we are told that the United States must check its internal development and turn to the production of thousands of workers, and pour forth treasure by the hundred millions—just as if everybody could not now see that the European armaments were certain to have brought on a conflict, had there been no other cause.

That some of the people behind this movement are sincere, if too badly frightened to think straight, appears from the fact that they are now recently joined together to demand an inquiry as to our preparedness for war—to see if we are really "safe." No inquiry as they and Congressmen Gardner seek in necessary. The facts as to our preparedness for war are easily ascertainable. They are contained in the reports of our Secretaries of War and Navy, our President's messages for years past. They can be obtained from those officials at any time. The Navy League is so sure that it has them all that it knows just what to advise, both as to army and navy. Every military man in Washington has the whole story at its disposal. Information is not the object of Congressman Gardner, however it suddenly desires of the military men on our situation. He wants to have army and navy officers appear before committees of Congress to give testimony as to the state of our preparedness, which is like asking a manufacturer bawling on the Treasury to write their own tariff schedules. We shall be in, if this prevails, for an inquiry of the most sensationalism, at which our generals will dispute whether we shall have 200,000 or 300,000 regulars, and our admirals whether we shall have fifty battleships or 250 submarines.

Fortunately for the country, the President is not to be stampeded. With courage and far-sighted statesmanship he lets it be known that he should regard any such inquiry as ill-timed. He does not put it on the ground of keeping your head when your neighbors are shooting one another. He puts it on the far nobler ground that before this country lies the greatest opportunity that has ever come to it, or perhaps to any country—the opportunity of playing the leading part in bringing the war to a close. Never before did a greater possibility of usefulness open before an American Statesman than that which looms before Woodrow Wilson. That he is of stature to seize the opportunity when it presents itself, this stand he is taking clearly proves. For he sees how in Europe—how in critical—would be our appeal for peace, our offer of good services, our pointing the way to disarmament, if we were to make that appeal fresh from new conquests to the armaments of millions out of the pockets of the people and into those of ship-contractors and manufacturers of supplies.

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